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January 16, 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director
Interdepartmental Foreign Information Organization

SUBJECT: Report Covering Activities of the Interdepartmental Foreign
Information Staff, October 15 to January 15

BACKGROUND

NSC-4, dated 9 December 1947, provided for an interdepartmental staff to assist the Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs in discharging his responsibilities for the Foreign Information Program. Organization of the staff, which included one representative each from the Departments of State, Army, Navy, and Air Force, and from the CIA, was completed on 1 June 1948.

NSC-43, dated 9 March 1949, provided for an interdepartmental organization to make plans and preparations for the conduct of overt psychological warfare in the event of national emergency or war.

On August 1, 1949, the Secretary of State proposed to the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence that the full-time Staffs responsible for carrying out NSC-4 and NSC-43 be combined.

The Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence agreed with this proposal. In his letter dated August 15, 1949 to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense also stated that he felt that the combined Staff should at an early date undertake the drafting of a single document which would incorporate the essential provisions

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of NSC-4 and NSC-43, revised as necessary in the light of the recent amendments to the National Security Act of 1947 and the comments on NSC-43/1.

Under date of 24 August 1949, the Under Secretary of State replied that the Department of State welcomed the suggestion that the combined Staff should prepare a single document which would incorporate the essential provisions of NSC-4 and NSC-43.

WORK COMPLETED

On 14 October 1949, the Department of State notified the Department of Defense, the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Resources Board of the composition of the Organization established within the Department of State under NSC-4 and NSC-43, including the full-time Staff to be known as the Interdepartmental Foreign Information Staff (IFIS). The Organization was broadened to include the Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, as its Director, and Consultants were included to represent the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and the National Security Resources Board.

Twenty-six conferences have been held by IFIS in the period under review; two conferences have been held by the Director with the Consultants in the period under review.

On 19 December 1949, the Secretary of State forwarded to the National Security Council a draft of a combined paper produced by the

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Staff and approved by the Acting Director following discussion by the Consultants. This paper (NSC-59) was circulated on 20 December 1949 by the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council to the members for comment.

Terms of Reference for the Organization were drafted by the Staff and approved by the Acting Director 30 December 1949 as an interim guide to the Staff pending final action on NSC-59. In the Terms of Reference the general Organization, of which Staff is a part, is entitled the Interdepartmental Foreign Information Organization (IFIO).

WORK IN PROCESS

Projects on which the Staff is presently engaged include:

- (1) A report on Planning for Psychological Warfare in the Initial Stages of War;
- (2) An Emergency Plan for Psychological Warfare in the Initial Stages of War;
- (3) Correlation of Interdepartmental Comment on POL Guidances;
- (4) Preliminary Staff Report on Coordination and Strengthening of US Foreign Information Activities in Europe, including provisions for field survey;
- (5) Preliminary Staff Report on Coordination and Strengthening of US Foreign Information Activities in Asia, including provisions for field survey;


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- (6) Inventory of Facilities and Personnel Available for the Foreign Information Program and Psychological Warfare;
- (7) Inventory and File of Research and Intelligence Projects, Documents, and Sources;
- (8) Other Surveys and Evaluation of Information Activities Abroad.

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Chairman,
Interdepartmental Foreign Information Staff

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